

REMARKS

The title of the application has been amended to more clearly reflect the claimed invention.

Claims 1-9, 11-17 and 30-33 are pending in the application. Claims 1-9 and 30-33 have been allowed. Claims 10, 18-19 and 34 have been canceled without prejudicing the Applicants' right to prosecute these claims in a timely filed continuation or divisional application. Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to correct minor grammatical errors and to make the transition phrase language consistent with that of the previous claims. Claims 11-13 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims from which they depend, in compliance with the Examiner's recommendations.

In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and objections to the application in the Office Action is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 10 and 26-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent No. EP 0947581 A1. Claims 10 and 26-29 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicants' right to prosecute these claims in a timely filed continuation application. The cancellation of these claims renders the Examiner's rejection moot. Accordingly Applicants' respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

II. Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11-16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated that these claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim from which they depend. Claims 11-13 and 16 have been amended to include all of the limitations of the base claims from which they depend, in compliance with the Examiner's recommendation. Claims 14 and 15 have not been

amended, however, the amendments to claims 11 and 12 from which these claims depend should adequately address the Examiner's concerns. Accordingly, these claims should now be in condition for allowance and Applicants' respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants' respectfully submit that all of the claims remaining in the application are in condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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